

Important Information for Store Owners about California's Bottle & Can Recycling Law

This brief informational handout is to inform storeowners who sell beverages, in bottles and cans, of their responsibilities under the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act. This handout does not cover every aspect of the law.



Beverages included in the California Redemption Value (CRV) program:

1. Beer and other malt beverages.
2. Wine coolers or distilled spirit coolers (both 7% or less alcohol by volume).
3. Carbonated water, including soda and carbonated mineral water.
4. Noncarbonated water, including noncarbonated mineral water.
5. Carbonated soft drinks.
6. Noncarbonated soft drinks and, "sport" drinks.
7. Noncarbonated fruit drinks that contain any percentage of fruit juice.
8. Coffee and tea drinks.
9. Carbonated fruit drinks.
10. Vegetable juice in beverage containers of 16 ounces or less.
11. 100% fruit juice in containers less than 46 ounces.

Stores should **NOT** sell the beverages listed above unless the containers have a label that shows they are included in the CRV program.

Redeemable containers are labeled:

- **CA REDEMPTION VALUE,**
- **CALIFORNIA REDEMPTION VALUE,**
- **CA CASH REFUND,**
- **CALIFORNIA CASH REFUND,**
- or • **CA CRV**

EXCLUDED: Milk, medical food, infant formula, wine, 100% fruit juice in containers 46 ounces or more, vegetable juice above 16 ounces.

If you choose to charge CRV to customers on eligible beverages, you are encouraged to show the CRV payment as a separate item on your cash register receipts. The CRV portion **is** subject to sales tax **only** if the sale of the beverage is subject to sales tax. Effective January 1, 2004, CRV is 4¢ for each beverage container less than 24 ounces, and 8¢ for each container 24 ounces or more.

Sign requirements for all stores that sell CRV beverage containers:

You must post a sign that tells customers where they can redeem CRV bottles and cans. The sign must be at least 10-by-15 inches and must be placed in a clear and conspicuous location at **ALL** public entrances to your store. This sign must indicate the name and address of the State-certified recycling center location, nearest to you that redeems all types of empty beverage containers. If you are not sure of

the nearest certified recycling center or would like a complimentary sign from the state, call **1-800-RECYCLE** or **(916) 322-0195** or send e-mail to **dealersigns@consvr.ca.gov**

If your location size is greater than 4,000 square feet of sales and storage area, you are required to display CRV as a separate component of the beverage container price on all advertising and shelf labels. For example, a six-pack of 12-ounce soda costing \$1.99 may be displayed as:

\$1.99 + CRV or \$1.99 plus 24¢ CRV or \$1.99 + 24¢ CRV= \$2.23



Requirements for Stores Located in Convenience Zones without a Certified Recycling Center

A convenience zone is the area in a one-half mile circle around a supermarket that has annual sales of two million dollars or more.

Without a recycling center in your neighborhood, customers who buy beverages from you will not have a convenient place to get back the CRV they paid at your store.

All stores in the convenience zone without a certified recycling center (unserved), will receive a "First Notice" that they have 60 days until they will have to redeem CRV bottles and cans or pay a daily fee. If a recycling center opens within your convenience zone, the Division of Recycling will notify you in writing, providing you with the name and address of the recycling center.

If a certified recycling center is not established in the convenience zone on or before the end of the 60-day "grace period," then California law requires stores to do one of the following:

A. Redeem all empty California Redemption Value (CRV) beverage containers brought to your store during regular business hours by consumers. This would mean paying customers CRV and storing containers until they could be taken to a certified recycling center, where you would get back the CRV you paid your customers, or

B. Pay \$100 per day to the California Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling. By paying \$100 per day, a store is relieved of its legal obligation to redeem empty beverage containers in-store. Please note that the \$100 per day payment is an option in California law and is not a fine.

Option A or B is not needed if a certified recycling center opens in your convenience zone.

If you choose option A, you are required to pay the refund value for each used container brought in for recycling. Effective January 1, 2004, the refund value for each beverage container with a capacity of less than 24 fluid ounces is four cents (\$0.04), and the refund value for each container with a capacity of 24 fluid ounces or more is eight cents (\$0.08).

Also, in lieu of posting a sign showing the name and address of the nearest State certified recycling center, you are required to post a sign of at least 10 by 15 inches at all public entrances to your place of business which specifies one of the following:

1. Beverage containers may be redeemed at all open cash registers within this store.
2. Beverage containers may be redeemed at (specify a designated location) within this store.



You may use your own sign or the sign provided by the Division of Recycling to post this information.

A member from our Dealer Services Section may visit your location to further assist you to understand and comply with these requirements. Additional information is also made available to you at the Department's website at www.consvr.ca.gov/dor/index.htm.



*If you have questions regarding this handout or specific questions regarding dealer requirements, you may contact the Division of Recycling's Dealer Services Section at **(916) 323-3263** or call **1-800-RECYCLE** and your call will be directed to the appropriate staff.*

